

Appl. No. 09/674,443
Response Dated November 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated July 1, 2003

The Claims

The following listing of claims reproduces them as they existed on the July 1, 2003, date of the Office Action.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating fishhook comprising:

a shank having an eye formed at an end thereof, the eye adapting the fishhook for coupling to a fishing line;

5 a bend formed at an end of the shank distal from the eye;

a point formed at an end of the bend distal from the shank;
and

a self-contained bioelectric simulating means which, to induce a strike response in fish, includes an electret and is disposed on
10 the shank.

Claim 2. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 1 wherein said bioelectric simulating means further includes:

an anodic segment, formed by an anodic material, that is located along the fishhook where said anodic segment becomes
5 exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein; and

a cathodic segment, formed by a cathodic material, that is also located along the fishhook where said cathodic segment becomes

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exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein, and that is separated from the anodic segment.

Claim 3. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 2 further comprising an insulating segment, formed by an electrically insulating material, that is located along the fishhook between said anodic segment and said cathodic segment where said insulating
5 segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein for insulating the fishhook thereabout from electrical contact with the water.

Claim 4. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 3 further comprising an artificial lure disposed upon the fishhook.

Claim 5. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 4 wherein said artificial lure is made from an electrically insulating material, and both said anodic segment and said cathodic segment are not covered by said artificial lure.

Claim 6. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 4 wherein said artificial lure is made from an electrically insulating material and provides said insulating segment of the fishhook.

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Claim 7. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 3 wherein a quantity of anodic material included in the fishhook is less than a quantity of cathodic material included therein.

Claim 8. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 3 wherein said anodic segment overcoats a comparatively heavy, electrically conductive material thereby adding weight to fishhook.

Claim 9. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 3 wherein said anodic segment and cathodic segment are arranged along the fishhook so that during retrieval of the fishhook said anodic segment precedes said cathodic segment through water surrounding
5 the fishhook.

Claim 10. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 2
further comprising an artificial lure disposed upon the fishhook.

Claim 11. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 1 further comprising an artificial lure disposed upon the fishhook.

Claim 12. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 1 wherein said shank adjacent to the eye has an enlarged portion that is larger than said bend and other portions of said shank.

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Claim 13. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 12 wherein material forming the enlarged portion is heavier than material of said shank.

Claim 14. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 1 having at least a pair of bends each of which has a point formed at an end of such bend distal from the shank connected thereto.

Claim 15. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 14 wherein said bioelectric simulating means further includes:

an anodic segment, formed by an anodic material, that is located along a first bend of the bends where said anodic segment
5 becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein;
and

a cathodic segment, formed by a cathodic material, that is
also located along a second bend of the bends where said cathodic
segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook
10 therein.

Claim 16. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 15 further comprising an insulating segment, formed by an electrically insulating material, that is located about the shank between said anodic segment of the first bend and said cathodic segment of the

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- 5 second bend where said insulating segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein for insulating the fishhook thereabout from electrical contact with the water.

Claim 17. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating artificial lure comprising:

a body; and

- 5 in said body and at least another section that protrudes out from said body, at least a section of said strand which protrudes from said body having at least a portion of a self-contained bioelectric simulating means which includes an electret and is disposed on said strand to induce a strike response in fish.

~~Claim 18. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of~~
claim 17 wherein a treated section of said strand further includes an anodic segment when said strand becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the artificial lure therein.

Claim 19. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 18 wherein a treated section of said strand also further includes a cathodic segment when said strand becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the artificial lure therein.

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Claim 20. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 19 wherein the cathodic segment of said electrically conductive strand is coupled electrically to said anodic segment of said electrically conductive strand.

Claim 21. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 17 wherein said body is formed from an electrically insulating material.

Claim 22. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating skirt adapted to be secured to an artificial lure comprising:

a plurality of fine strands each having at least a portion of a self-contained bioelectric simulating means which includes an
5 electret disposed on at least one of said strands to induce a
strike response in fish.

Claim 23. (Previously presented): The skirt of claim 22 wherein said strands further comprise an insulating segment, formed by an electrically insulating material, that is located along at least one of said strands between an anodic segment and a cathodic
5 segment of the bioelectric simulating means where said insulating segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the skirt

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therein for insulating said strand thereabout from electrical contact with the water.

Claim 24. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating bait spear adapted for attachment to an artificial lure comprising:

at least one strand adapted for insertion into an artificial lure, said strand having at least a portion of a self-contained
5 bioelectric simulating means which includes an electret disposed on said strand to induce a strike response in fish.

Claim 25. (Previously presented): The bait spear of claim 24 wherein said strand further comprise an insulating segment, formed by an electrically insulating material, that is located along said strand between an anodic segment and a cathodic segment where said
5 insulating segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the
bait spear therein for insulating said strand thereabout from electrical contact with the water.

Claim 26. (Previously presented): The bait spear of claim 24 wherein said strand is U-shaped thereby adapting said strand for piercing through the artificial lure.

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Claim 27. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating artificial lure comprising:

a solid body having at least a portion of a self-contained bioelectric simulating means which includes an electret disposed on
5 said body to induce a strike response in fish.

Claim 28. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 27 wherein said body is formed from an electrically insulating material.

Claim 29. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 28 wherein said body further includes electrically conductive material that interconnects an anodic segment with a cathodic segment.

Claim 30. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 27 wherein an anodic material is embedded within a porous material that forms at least a portion of said body.

Claim 31. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 27 wherein a cathodic material is embedded within a porous material that forms at least a portion of said body.

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Claim 32. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 27 further comprising a conductivity-enhancing material which becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the artificial lure therein for increasing electrical conductivity of water about the
5 artificial lure.

Claim 33. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 27 wherein an anodic segment of the artificial lure is replaceable.

Claim 34. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 33 wherein a replaceable fishhook provides the anodic segment of the artificial lure.

Claim 35. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 27 wherein a cathodic segment of the artificial lure is replaceable.

Claim 36. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 35 wherein a replaceable fishhook provides the cathodic segment of the artificial lure.

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Claim 37. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating sticker adapted to be fastened to an artificial lure comprising:

a sheet of material that includes securing means for fastening said sheet to the artificial lure, said sheet having a self-
5 contained bioelectric simulating means which includes an electret disposed thereon to induce a strike response in fish.

Claim 38. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 37 wherein the securing means is a layer of adhesive material coated onto a surface of said sheet.

Claim 39. (Previously presented): The artificial lure of claim 37 wherein a portion of said sheet between an anodic segment thereof and a cathodic segment thereof includes an electrically insulating material.

Claim 40. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating fishhook comprising:

a bend;

a point formed at a first end of the bend;

5 a shank extending from a second end of the bend distal from said point, said shank also having an eye formed at an end thereof that is distal from the bend;

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extension hardware coupled to the eye that adapts the fishhook for coupling to a fishing line; and

10 self-contained bioelectric simulating means on the fishhook, said bioelectric simulating means including an electret to induce a strike response in fish.

Claim 41. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 40 wherein said bioelectric simulating means further includes:

an anodic segment, formed by an anodic material, that is located on the extension hardware where said anodic segment becomes
5 exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein; and

a cathodic segment, formed by a cathodic material, that is located along the fishhook separated from said extension hardware where said cathodic segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein.

Claim 42. (Previously presented): The fishhook of claim 41 further comprising an insulating segment, formed by an electrically insulating material, that is located along the fishhook between said anodic segment and said cathodic segment where said insulating
5 segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the fishhook therein for insulating the fishhook thereabout from electrical contact with the water.

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Claim 43. (Previously presented): A bioelectric simulating trailer rod adapted to be secured to a bend of a fishhook, the trailer rod comprising:

5 a shank adapted for having an eye formed at one end thereof
for securing the trailer rod to the bend of the fishhook; and
self-contained bioelectric simulating means located on the trailer rod, said bioelectric simulating means including an electret to induce a strike response in fish.

Claim 44. (Previously presented): The trailer rod of claim 43 wherein said bioelectric simulating means further includes:

an anodic segment, formed by an anodic material, that is located on the trailer rod where said anodic segment becomes
5 exposed to water upon immersion of the trailer rod therein; and
a cathodic segment, formed by a cathodic material, that is
located on the trailer rod separated from the anodic segment where said cathodic segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the trailer rod therein.

Claim 45. (Previously presented): The trailer rod of claim 44 wherein said shank is electrically conducting.

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Claim 46. (Previously presented): The trailer rod of claim 45 further comprising an insulating segment, formed by an electrically insulating material, that is located along the trailer rod between said anodic segment and said cathodic segment where said insulating
5 segment becomes exposed to water upon immersion of the trailer rod therein for insulating the trailer rod thereabout from electrical contact with the water.

Claim 47. (Previously presented): The trailer rod of claim 44 wherein said shank has an eye formed thereon which provides an opening sufficiently large so the point and barb of a fishhook will pass therethrough.